

**REPUBLIC
OF CHINA
YEARBOOK
1989**

**PUBLISHED BY
KWANG HWA PUBLISHING COMPANY
REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

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Published by Kwang Hwa Publishing Company
2, Tientsin Street, Taipei, (Taiwan), ROC

Printed by China Color Printing Co., Inc.
229, Pao Chiao Rd., Hsintien, Taipei County, Taiwan, ROC

1st edition, D 8 October 1989
Catalog Card No.: KHP-EN-BO-78-085-781
ISSN 1013-0942

Printed in the Republic of China on Taiwan

Price: NT\$1200 US\$44.50

Preface

Things are changing so fast in the Republic of China it is difficult to keep up. What was true yesterday may not be so today. Yet underneath much remains the same: the same cultural traditions, ideals, and world views guide people along a consistent path.

Since the lifting of the Emergency Decree in July 1987, a series of political, economic, and social innovations has been implemented: new political parties may now be organized, new newspapers may be established, foreign exchange may be freely purchased and sold, new securities firms may be opened, unofficial contacts with the Chinese mainland have entered into a period of growth and development, and "flexible diplomacy" has become part of the ROC's everyday vocabulary. In a period of less than two years, the Republic of China on Taiwan has turned into one of the most dynamic countries in East Asia.

The *1989 Republic of China Yearbook* is an attempt to help you keep up with these many changes, better understand the more static underlying traditions, and perhaps tie the two together in some places.

You will notice that this year's edition differs from previous ones in a number of ways. The most obvious changes are in the format and design (the photographs constitute a separate section at the beginning of each chapter), and in chapter divisions (down to 35 larger chapter topics from 60, with some new ones added and old ones incorporated elsewhere). But the most important change is in content. Many of the chapters have been totally rewrit-

ten; others have been fully updated and supplemented with new material. The appendix section has been expanded to include practical information about the ROC in compact form, such as units of measure frequently encountered in Taiwan, and a detailed list of national and popular holidays. Our goal has been to be as informative, useful, and comprehensive as possible within our limits of space, format, and time.

No yearbook can possibly contain everything all readers may be looking for. To meet needs beyond what has been assembled here, we have added two new features: a list of related organizations, with emphasis on government agencies, and a bibliography for each individual chapter topic. You can contact the relevant organization or agency on the list for further information, or you can go directly to the publication that interests you. These lists are naturally not exhaustive, but should open up enough doors for you to find your way.

The Romanization system used in this book is the Wade-Giles system generally employed in the ROC. Certain personal and place names follow individual preference or convention. A Romanization conversion table is included in the appendix section for the reader's convenience.

We heartily welcome your comments, criticisms, and suggestions for future editions.

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Executive Yuan
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Commission
Rules and Regulations Task Force,
Executive Yuan
Taipei City Council
Taipei City Government
Taiwan Provincial Assembly
Taiwan Provincial Government
Tourism Bureau,
Ministry of Communications
Young China Party

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